

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150533

13

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSC-01 (ADP) R

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----- 113446

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, CASC, CPRS (DAVIS, WILLIAM A.)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMCITS AT MOSCOW AIRPORT

REF: MOSCOW 8406, STATE 138515

1. MR. AND MRS. DAVIS RETURNED TO CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA ON JULY 23. DEPARTMENT OFFICER TELEPHONED THEM ON JULY 24.

2. MR. DAVIS SAID THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD REQUESTED VISAS VALID TO ENTER THE USSR BETWEEN JUNE 29 AND JULY 6. WHEN MR. AND MRS. DAVIS ARRIVED AT MOSCOW AIRPORT ON JUNE 30 THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEIR VISAS WERE VALID FOR ENTRY BETWEEN JULY 29 AND AUGUST 6. THEY WERE NOT RPT NOT QUOTE LOCKED IN A ROOM UNQUOTE AS REPORTED IN STATE REFTEL BUT, RATHER, WERE LOCKED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TRANSIT HOTEL. MR. DAVIS SAID HE WAS ADVISED BY HIS RUSSIAN GUIDE NOT TO CALL THE US EMBASSY. HE DID NOT INSIST UPON CALLING THE EMBASSY AND BELIEVES THAT, IF HE HAD INSISTED, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PLACE A CALL.

3. MR. DAVIS PLACES MOST OR ALL THE BLAME FOR THIS TRAVEL

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PAGE 02 STATE 150533

MIX-UP ON AMERICAN EXPRESS WHICH, HE THINKS, SHOULD HAVE

NOTICED THE MISTAKE IN HIS VISA BEFORE HE AND HIS WIFE
ARRIVED IN MOSCOW. MR. DAVIS SAYS HE IS TAKING LEGAL
ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN EXPRESS.

4. DEPARTMENT OFFICER INFORMED A SOVIET EMBASSY CONSULAR
OFFICER ABOUT THE DAVISES' PROBLEM. THE OFFICER EXPRESSED
REGRET THAT THE WRONG DATES HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE DAVISES'
VISAS AND THAT THE DAVISES HAD BEEN INCONVENIENCED BY THEIR
DETENTION AT THE MOSCOW AIRPORT HOTEL.

5. IN VIEW OF MR. DAVIS' STATEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER,
IT APPEARS THAT WE DO NOT HAVE STRONG CASE THAT ARTICLE
12, PARAGRAPH 1 OF CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS VIOLATED.
NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY MAY WISH, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO
BRING THE PROBLEM OF THE DAVISES' DETENTION TO THE
ATTENTION OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON AN APPROPRIATE OC-
CASION. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ACTION
OF INTOURIST GUIDE IN ADVISING AGAINST CALLING EMBASSY. ROGERS

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